

REMARKS

Claims 27 and 29 have been amended to more clearly recite a feature of Applicants' invention. Support for the amendments to claims 27 and 29 may be found throughout the specification and Figures. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 27-29 remain pending.

In the Office Action dated September 30, 2005, claims 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunn (U.S. Patent No. 3,505,140) in view of Jones (U.S. Patent No. 3,153,868). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 27 recites a lamination product that includes, *inter alia* "a transparent laminate secured to the substrate at the second portion of the one side with the pressure sensitive adhesive material, the laminate being devoid of adhesive material, a portion of the laminate covering the first portion of the substrate and not being adhered to the substrate due to the release material." Claim 27 is patentable over the combination of Dunn and Jones because the combination does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 27.

Dunn teaches an apparatus and method for laminating card-like articles between translucent or transparent sheets each having adhesively coated faces in opposite engagement with a release sheet. *See* Dunn at col. 1, lns. 12-16. As taught by Dunn, "The finished lamination assembly 20, shown in FIGURES 6 and 7, includes the card-like material which may be completely enclosed within the confines of sheets 12 and 14 and permanently secured therebetween by the adhesive engagement of the adhesively coated faces 12a and 14a which adhere to both faces of the card, as well as to each other in the peripheral areas surrounding the card. *See* Dunn at col. 2, lns. 54-61. Thus, Dunn teaches that it is important to have both sheets 12 and 14 coated with adhesive to facilitate in permanently securing the card therebetween. Nowhere does Dunn disclose or even remotely suggest that one of the sheets (12 or 14) may be devoid of adhesive.

Applicants have found that by providing a transparent laminate without an adhesive material, the laminate may be easily pulled away from the release material without the risk of contaminants, such as dust, small particles, etc., sticking to the laminate or fingerprints being imprinted on the laminate while the document is being laminated.

Jones discloses a way to protect a label from alteration. *See* Jones at col. 1, lns. 8-9. In all embodiments disclosed by Jones, the transparent film protective sheet (2, 44, 90) has an adhesive coating (3, 46, 92) on one side thereof. The backing sheet (6, 43, 83) of Jones is

used to temporarily position the label so that the transparent film protective sheet may be mounted to the label so as to provide a protective layer. *See* Jones at col. 3, lns. 55-59.

Neither Dunn nor Jones discloses or suggests a lamination product that includes “a transparent laminate secured to the substrate at the second portion of the one side with the pressure sensitive adhesive material, the laminate being devoid of adhesive material,” as claimed by claim 27.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 27 and claim 28, which depends from claim 27, are patentable over Dunn in view of Jones, and respectfully request that the rejection to claims 27 and 28 be withdrawn.

Independent claim 29 recites a method for laminating a document in a lamination product having, *inter alia*, a transparent laminate secured to the substrate at the second portion of the one side with the pressure sensitive adhesive material, the transparent laminate being devoid of adhesive, the method comprising, *inter alia*, placing the document between the laminate devoid of adhesive material and the substrate having pressure sensitive adhesive material, and pressing the document and laminate against the exposed adhesive of the first portion. The combination of Dunn and Jones does not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 29.

Dunn and Jones are discussed above. As discussed above, neither Dunn nor Jones discloses or suggests a lamination product that includes, *inter alia*, “a transparent laminate secured to the substrate at the second portion of the one side with the pressure sensitive adhesive material, the laminate being devoid of adhesive material,” as recited by claim 29. In addition, neither Dunn nor Jones discloses or suggests a method for lamination a document in a lamination product that includes, *inter alia*, “placing the document between the laminate devoid of adhesive material and the substrate having pressure sensitive adhesive material,” as recited by claim 29.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 29 is patentable over Dunn in view of Jones, and respectfully request that the rejection to claim 29 be withdrawn.

All rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any point remains at issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

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Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP



REG. NO. 47,418

BRYAN P. COLLINS

Reg. No. 43,560

Tel. No. 703.770.7538

EMILY T. BELL

Reg. No. 47,418

Tel. No. 703.770.7661

Date: June 30, 2006
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
Fax No. 703.770.7901